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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 003793

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/RUS AND EUR/AGS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/30/2016

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [RS](#) [AU](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON RUSSIAN DRAFT NGO LAW: AUSTRIA SHARES

U.S. CONCERNS

REF: STATE 212899

Classified By: ECONOMIC-POLITICAL COUNSELOR GREGORY E. PHILLIPS

REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D)

(C) Embassy Vienna delivered reftel demarche on November 29 to Hanns Porias, Austrian MFA A/S-equivalent for Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Porias assured us that Austria and other European Union member states shared our concerns about the draft law regulating NGOs. There had been a flurry of recent internal EU cable traffic on the problems posed by the draft law and how to respond, he observed. The European Commission, the Council and the member states were considering ways to engage the Russian government and push for changes in the bill.

VAN VOORST